Waltham Police Department

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING
CHAPTER 65

General Order Number: GO-01 2009
Effective Date: 01/2009

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Waltham Police Department to establish the general philosophy of the department's activities in support of traffic engineering. An essential element is close coordination and cooperation among the department and the City of Waltham Traffic Commission. The department shall assist as requested by the Traffic Commission in obtaining traffic law enforcement and traffic crash management data in order to provide basic traffic information services to the public. Requests may be made in order to assist the Traffic Commission:

1. Collect and compile traffic-related data relevant to identifying specific engineering problems and solutions;

2. Conduct special traffic surveys and studies, as appropriate, to investigate potential problems;

3. Analyze crash and enforcement data to discern trends and relationships symptomatic of engineering problems;

4. Prepare special reports, and make recommendations concerning efficient use of traffic control devices, new or revised laws or ordinances, or other engineering solutions/improvements.

PROCEDURES:

1. **TRAFFIC ENGINEERING COMPLAINTS:** The department will refer to the Traffic Commission, and may be called upon to assist in recording, investigating and follow-up of all citizen's complaints or suggestions of actual or potential traffic engineering problems and possible improvements. In keeping with the department's general complaint-handling process, the caller will be notified of the actions taken.

2. **HIGH CRASH LOCATION ENGINEERING PROBLEMS:** Upon request, the department will assist the Traffic Commission in collecting data, so that the Traffic Commission may analyze engineering-relevant data as part of its regular studies of traffic crash locations. The department will continue to maintain data of traffic crash reporting and investigation. The Traffic Commission is responsible for any crash-collision diagrams and condition diagrams that are prepared and maintained to provide a base for traffic engineering decisions and recommendations. Analysis of high incident crash locations may assist in support of selective enforcement programs. Any situation in which there may be possible deficiencies will be reported to the Traffic Commission. The Traffic Commission may initiate sight distances and other appropriate engineering studies of the affected locations. Data to assist in preparing these reports will be maintained and generated through the Planning and Research Unit, Records Unit, Community Services Division, and the office of the Chief of Police at the request of the Traffic Commission.

3. **CRASH DATA SHARING:** Upon request, the department will transmit summaries of its crash and enforcement data to relevant traffic engineering authorities. The summaries should alert the Traffic Commission to potential engineering problems emerging from the crash and violation records.

4. **TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PLANNING:** The department does not have fully qualified traffic engineers on staff. However, if departmental personnel are assigned to work with traffic engineers in field studies and data analyses, and participate with them in the community's transportation system management planning, members may have at least a fundamental proficiency in the principles and methods of the discipline.